



OPERATING POLICY 1B INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



Kirkland Fire/Building Department • 123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 • (425) 587-3650

I. SCOPE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide information regarding the requirements for inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers in commercial occupancies within the City of Kirkland. This information is based on Sec. 906.2 of the International Fire Code and NFPA 10.

II. GENERAL

All fire extinguishers shall be inspected on a monthly basis, to ensure ease of access and usability.

In addition, all extinguishers shall have maintenance performed on an annual basis, as outlined in section III below. This maintenance may be performed by the following persons and/or companies:

1. Companies with qualified personnel normally engaged in this type of work.
2. The building/business owner or manager.
3. A designated person within the business and/or management of the building, such as maintenance personnel.

Any actual servicing, recharging, or testing of fire extinguishers shall only be performed by companies with qualified personnel normally engaged in this type of work.

III. REQUIREMENTS

The annual maintenance shall include a check of the following items:

1. The extinguisher is located in its designated location.
2. There are no obstructions to access or visibility.
3. Operating instructions on the nameplate are legible and facing outward.
4. Seals and tamper indicators are in place and not broken or missing.
5. Extinguisher is full as determined by weighing or "hefting."
6. Extinguisher shows no obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage, or clogged nozzle.
7. Pressure gauge reading or indicator is in the operable range or position.
8. Extinguisher chemical is not caked (dry chemical only). (This portion of the inspection involves carefully turning the fire extinguisher upside down and shaking.)
9. Tag is attached that indicates the month and year the maintenance and/or recharging were performed and identifies the person performing the service.

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In addition to the above-required annual inspection, the following service is required:

- Dry chemical and halon fire extinguishers must be professionally serviced every six years. Date of required service can be determined by looking at the date of manufacture or the most recent hydrostatic date, which will be stamped into the extinguisher shell or otherwise indicated on the label. Six-year maintenance involves taking apart the fire extinguisher to internally examine all components.
- Every twelve years, the extinguisher must be hydrostatically tested. Hydrostatic test involves high-pressure testing to determine continued serviceability to the extinguisher shell.
- Both six-year and twelve-year maintenance must be performed by a qualified fire extinguisher company.
- Pressurized water fire extinguishers are required to be hydrostatically tested every five years.

CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers are required to be serviced annually by a qualified fire extinguisher company. Carbon dioxide extinguishers require that a conductivity test be conducted on the hose assembly. Carbon dioxide extinguishers are not required to be examined internally; however, these extinguishers must be weighed on a special scale to determine if the amount of carbon dioxide is within the required range. Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers are subject to hydrostatic testing every five years.

OTHER TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The above-described extinguishers are the most common types found. For maintenance requirements on other types of extinguishers not listed, please contact the Kirkland Fire Department.

CORRECTION OF PROBLEMS

Any problems found when performing monthly inspections or annual maintenance shall be corrected immediately. If the person inspecting has any reason to question the serviceability of a fire extinguisher, these concerns shall be immediately referred to persons qualified to perform maintenance on the fire extinguisher, i.e. a reputable fire extinguisher company.

Any fire extinguisher that has been used, even partially, requires immediate servicing by professionals.

Any questions concerning the requirements for fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance may be directed to the Kirkland Bureau of Fire Prevention, 425-587-3650.

*Policy Approved 5/24/11 by
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